

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06040 080754Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 080729Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8902
AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TAIPEI 06040

EXDIS - MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AS IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE TO CINCPAC,
COMUSTDC TAIPEI TW AND COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS : MILI, PEPR, TW
SUBJECT : PDM RELOCATION

REFS: (A) STATE 225330, (B) STATE 225329

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT CHIANG CHING-KUO SEPTEMBER 8
AND BRIEFED HIM ON THE PROGRAMMED DEPOT MAINTENANCE
(PDM) RELOCATION USING THE INFORMATION IN REFTEL A AND
THE Q AND A'S IN REFTEL B (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE
FINAL QUESTION CONCERNING WRM, A QUESTION WHICH HE DID
NOT RAISE EITHER.) PRESIDENT CHIANG WAS VISIBLY
DISAPPOINTED AND SAID THAT HIS PERSONAL REACTION WAS ONE
OF GREAT REGRET THAT THE U.S. WILL BE TERMINATING
CONTRACTS FOR AN ORGANIZATION, AIR ASIA, WHICH HAD BEEN
ON TAIWAN FOR SUCH A LONG TIME AND WHICH HAD MADE A
SIGNIFICANT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION. HE HOPED
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THAT WE WOULD HANDLE THE TRANSFER IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE EXISTING CONTRACTS.

2. APROPOS OF THE Q AND A'S, PRESIDENT CHIANG SAID THAT
HE REGRETTED THAT WE WOULD BE CONNECTING PRIVATE CONTRACTS
WITH A GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE BY REFERRING TO THE
SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. I NOTED THAT WHILE A PUBLIC

ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY CONNECT THESE TWO MATTERS, WE CLEARLY HAD TO BE PREPARED TO ANSWER PREDICTABLE PRESS QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PDM RELOCATION TO THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

3. PRESIDENT CHIANG FINALLY NOTED THAT WHILE THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A MATTER WHICH COULD BE DECIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, NONETHELESS, IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR HIS PERSONAL OPINION, HE FELT HE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE ROC HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE U.S. TO BE A GOOD FRIEND AND HE THOUGHT THE RELOCATION WAS A DISAPPOINTING ACTION COMING FROM A FRIEND.

4. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE MAY WELL HAVE TO ADDRESS PRESS QUESTIONS WHICH REFER TO NORMALIZATION AND THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE TO OMIT ANY SUCH REFERENCE FROM WHAT WE ASSUME WILL BE A BRIEF FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT WHEN ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. REFERENCE TO THE CONVENIENCE OF A FACILITY IN KOREA ALONG THE LINES OF QUESTION 3 OF THE PRESS RELEASE WOULD SEEM TO BE ADEQUATE.

5. WHILE THE PRESIDENT TOOK THE NEWS CALMLY, IT OBVIOUSLY PUT HIM IN A SOMBRE MOOD. HE WAS NO DOUBT INVOLVED IN THE EARLIER ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR ASIA AND THEREFORE COULD VIEW THIS FURTHER CHANGE AS SYMBOLIC OF CHANGES IN OUR
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RELATIONS IN A NEGATIVE DIRECTION. ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT ASKED NO QUESTIONS, I BELIEVE WE CAN EXPECT QUESTIONS FROM THE GROG AS THE ACTUAL TRANSFER GETS UNDERWAY.

6. I DO NOT INTEND TO DECLASSIFY REF B IN ITS ENTIRETY; I WOULD PROPOSE WE DECLASSIFY ONLY THOSE Q AND A'S WHICH WE ARE ACTUALLY REQUIRED TO USE. IN PARTICULAR, I THINK WE SHOULD SAY NOTHING ABOUT WAR RESERVE MATERIEL UNLESS WE ARE PRESSED ON THE SUBJECT, IN THAT CASE BELIEVE SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD BE DELETED. UNGER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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